AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2 and 4 as follows; please add new claims 16-22; and please cancel claims 3 and 5-15, without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Amended) A method for identifying [documents] patents in a database which relate to a [document] patent under test, comprising:

[retrieving the document under test from the database;]

searching the database and storing as first generation [1] data identifying data corresponding to [each reference] at least one patent in the database which is cited in the [document] patent under test;

[retrieving from the database each available reference identified by the identifying data stored as generation 1 data; and]

searching the database and storing as second generation [2] data identifying data corresponding to [each reference] at least one patent in the database which is cited in [the references] at least one patent identified by the first generation [1] data; and

operating on the second generation data to identify or filter out at least one patent identified in the second generation data that is cited in the patent under test.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving from a user an identification of the [document] patent under test.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying at least the [stored identifying] operated-on second generation data to [the] a user.

5-15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising displaying both the operated-on second generation data and the first generation data to the user.

17. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising at least one of:

(a) storing as first generation data identifying data corresponding to each patent in the database which is cited in the patent under test;

(b) storing as second generation data identifying data corresponding to each patent in the database which is cited in each patent identified by the first generation data; and

(c) operating on the second generation data to identify or filter out each patent identified in the second generation data that is cited in the patent under test.

18. (New) A method for identifying patents in a database which relate to a patent under test, comprising:

searching the database and storing as first generation data identifying data corresponding to at least one patent in the database which is cited in the patent under test;

searching the database and storing as second generation data identifying data corresponding to at least one patent in the database which cites at least one patent identified by the first generation data; and

operating on the second generation data to identify or filter out at least one patent identified in the second generation data that is cited in the patent under test.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising receiving from a user an identification of the patent under test.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising displaying at least the operated-on second generation data to a user.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising displaying both the operated-on second generation data and the first generation data to the user.

22. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising at least one of:

(a) storing as first generation data identifying data corresponding to each patent in the database which is cited in the patent under test;

(b) storing as second generation data identifying data corresponding to each patent in the database which cites each patent identified by the first generation data; and

(c) operating on the second generation data to identify or filter out each patent identified in the second generation data that is cited in the patent under test.